

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 02248 121020Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----130619Z 050538 /11

R 120748Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3992
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY DOHA
USINT BAGHDAD
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 2248

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR US XF
SUBJ: U.S. POSTURE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

REF: (A) JIDDA 3266, (B) DOHA 570

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1. AMBASSADOR PORTER'S CONCLUSIONS SEEM TO US TO BE INESCAPABLE;
I.E., USG WILL HAVE TO PLAY A MORE ACTIVE ROLE THAN IT HAS IN
PAST WITH ALL REPEAT ALL PARTIES CONCERNED IF WE ARE TO TAKE
ADVANTAGE OF UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY THAT NOW PRESENTS ITSELF TO MOVE
IN DIRECTION OF AN OVERALL MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT. WE HAVE
IMPRESSION THAT USG IS IN FACT COMMITTED TO SUCH A COURSE OF
ACTION, BUT WE ARE NOT YET TALKING TO ONE OF THE TWO PRINCIPAL

PARTIES. WHILE WE UNDERSTAND THE INHIBITIONS AGAINST DOING SO, IT SEEMS TO US WE ARE RAPIDLY APPROACHING STAGE WHEN SUCH CONTACTS WILL BECOME NECESSARY IF WE ARE TO ADVANCE FURTHER.

2. FROM A STRICTLY LEBANESE POINT OF VIEW, I HOPE AMBASSADOR PAGANELLI IS RIGHT IN HIS RELATIVELY OPTIMISTIC VIEW, BECAUSE WORKABLE MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT IS VITAL TO FUTURE STABILITY OF LEBANON. THUS, ALTHOUGH EVERYONE TENDS TO DOWNPLAY IMPORTANCE OF LEBANON TO SETTLEMENT, SETTLEMENT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO LEBANON. JORDANIANS EXPORTED THEIR TROUBLEMAKERS TO LEBANON IN 1970 WHILE SYRIA AND EGYPT NEVER LET THEM GET A FOOTHOLD. THOSE THREE COUNTRIES MAY HAVE A PALESTINE PROBLEM. THIS PLACE, LIKE KUWAIT, HAS A PALESTINIAN ONE. IN CLASSIC OPERATION OF ARABIC BUDDY SYSTEM, LEBANESE HAVE BEEN SADDLED WITH THE FEDAYEEN BURDEN THE OTHER ARABS WERE UNWILLING TO TAKE. RELIEF FROM THIS BURDEN WOULD GO LONG WAY TO EASING THIS COUNTRY'S HERETOFORE INTRACTABLE PROBLEMS.

PARKER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 12-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Reason:
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SAS ID: 2554750
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: U.S. POSTURE IN THE MIDDLE EAST
TAGS: PFOR, US, XF, (PORTER, WILLIAM J)
To: STATE
Type: TE
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